

Applicants : Costa et al.	Atty. Dkt. No. : 1136-PCT-US
USSN : 10/557,586	Art Unit : 1644
Filed : March 3, 2006	Date of office action: June 2, 2009
Examiner : Nora M. Rooney	Date of response : September 17, 2009
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REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for a telephone interview on September 14, 2009 to discuss what constitutes patentable subject matters. According to the Examiner, a multimer protein molecule comprising SEQ. ID NO. 4 would be patentable. Therefore, at the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants are submitting this Amendment in which Applicants have canceled claims 1-28 without prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue the canceled subject matters in future applications. Applicants have also added new claims 29-43. Support for the new claims can be found, *iter alia*, in the canceled claims. Independent claims 29-31 recite a multimer protein molecule comprising SEQ. ID No. 4. Therefore, these claims and their dependent claims would be patentable.

Applicants :	Costa et al.	Atty. Dkt. No. :	1136-PCT-US
USSN :	10/557,586	Art Unit :	1644
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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the Amendment has fully addressed the Examiner's concerns expressed in the June 2, 2009 Office Action, and should not raise additional issues. Therefore, the application is in full compliance with all requirements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to put the application in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below. If any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1891.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Wai Kit Chan

Albert Wai-Kit Chan
Registration No. 36,479
Attorney for Applicants
Law Offices of
Albert Wai-Kit Chan, PLLC
World Plaza, Suite 604
141-07 20th Avenue
Whitestone, New York 11357
Tel: (718) 799-1000
Fax: (718) 357-8615
E-mail: chank@kitchanlaw.com